



Dear Evelyn: Can I recycle my plastic container that contained my strawberries?

Yes. All rigid plastic food containers can be recycled, so long as they are clean and dry.

Not sure if something is recyclable? Go to www.seattle.gov/util/recycling and find “Ask Evelyn, Look It Up” right by my picture. This new search tool covers hundreds of items from aerosol cans to Ziploc bags and provides fast answers for recycling, disposal, and waste reduction.

On the Web site you can also learn about the recent recycling service changes or watch new how-to recycle videos. Check it out!

Please send your recycling questions, tips or suggestions to Ask Evelyn, Seattle Public Utilities PO Box 34018, Seattle, WA 98124-4018 or e-mail [Evelyn the Envelope at askevelyn@seattle.gov](mailto:askevelyn@seattle.gov)

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.

Dear Evelyn: How can I help my neighbors at my apartment recycle better?

SPU offers lots of helpful information to apartment tenants, including how-to recycle DVDs, posters and flyers at www.seattle.gov/util.

Any apartment or condominium property with at least five units is eligible for a one-time \$100 utility bill credit by signing up a volunteer to be a Friend of Recycling and Composting. Volunteers monitor the recycling and garbage area, educate other tenants, and post provided educational posters or announcements as needed. If interested, call (206) 684-8717 or go to www.seattle.gov/util to request a packet of information.

Can I recycle the lids on my butter tub and pickle jar?

Yes. If it’s wider than three inches, you can recycle any clean plastic or metal lid. If the lid is smaller than three inches wide, it falls through the cracks in the recycling process and jams the recycling machinery – so put the small ones in the garbage.

Payment Center Closing

Seattle Public Utilities’ Payment Center on the 27th Floor of the Seattle Municipal Tower (SMT) will close on June 30, 2009. Utility bills can still be paid at the City of Seattle Treasurer’s Office on the 42nd Floor of SMT or at many Neighborhood Service Centers. For location information and other payment options, contact (206) 684-3000 or www.seattle.gov/util and click on “Billing.”

Kitchen Compost Coupons

Last year, Seattle residents helped make 80,000 tons of compost for local parks and gardens by putting leftover food scraps, coffee grounds, paper towels and pizza boxes in their food and yard waste carts – instead of the landfill.

Seattle and local retailers are offering great discounts to recognize the efforts of the 140,000 households who are turning their kitchen scraps into compost.



ECOSAFE®

Save \$1.00 off the purchase of any EcoSafe product! Limit one coupon per purchase. Coupon may not be mechanically reproduced, doubled or combined with any other offer. Go to www.ecosafeplastics.com to find a list of retailers that carry EcoSafe compostable bags. Offer expires 4/30/10.

To Dealer: This coupon will be redeemed for face value plus 8¢ handling provided terms of offer have been complied with. Any other use constitutes fraud. Invoices proving purchase of sufficient stock to cover coupons presented for redemption must be shown upon request. Failure to do so may, at our option, void coupons for which no proof-of-purchase is shown. Void if prohibited, taxed or restricted. Customer must pay any sales tax. Limit one coupon per item purchased. Mail all coupons to P.O. Box 870129, EL Paso TX 88587-0129. Cash redemption value 1/20 of 1¢.



Receive \$3 off a home compost kitchen kit from Cedar Grove! Use promotion code: **SPUCG09** at www.cgcompost.com. Must be redeemed by 7/31/09.

Support Green Scene businesses in your neighborhood that are committed to sustainability through recycling food waste.

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Sign Up a Friend and Win!

SPU’s CurbWaste e-mail newsletter offers up-to-the-minute information on your recycling, water conservation, sewer and drainage services. Sign up a friend to receive CurbWaste E-News by July 1 and you’ll BOTH be automatically entered to win an EcoSafe Kitchen Collector – great for storing leftover food scraps in the kitchen. Twenty lucky readers will win. Sign up at www.seattle.gov/lists.



Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Summer 2009

Thank You!

You did it, Seattle! On March 30, more than 300,000 households, condos and apartments started new recycling services that allow residents to recycle more than ever before.

We know the transition was difficult for some, but Seattle recyclers were up to the challenge. Residents can now put their recyclables all in one cart, including glass bottles and jars, along with new items like clean deli trays, paper and plastic cups, aluminum foil and plastic plant pots.

Now more than 140,000 households are participating in weekly food and yard waste collection and are putting out all their compostables – including meat, bones, shells, napkins, weeds, grass, banana peels and pizza boxes – in their food and yard waste carts.

In 2007, Seattle businesses and residents diverted 48.4 percent of their waste from the landfill by recycling and composting more than 400,000 tons of material. Seattle’s goal is to divert 60 percent of all its waste by 2012. Why? Because recycling cuts down on landfill costs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and saves energy and natural resources.

Want to learn more? Contact (206) 684-3000 or www.seattle.gov/util and find out what can go in your garbage, food and yard waste and recycling, and discover what happens to your stuff after it gets picked up at the curb.



Choose Reusable

“Choose Reusable.” It’s as simple as that. When you remember to shop for groceries with a reusable bag and don’t need to get disposable bags from the store, you’ll be helping make Seattle a more sustainable city.

Using fewer products – and disposable shopping bags are a good example – means less impact on the environment because choosing reusable means you use fewer materials, less fossil fuel. It’s one small step for the environment. And it really adds up. By shopping with reusable bags, a typical Seattle family will cut their use of throwaway bags by 12 per week, about 600 per year.

So “Choose Reusable” when you go to the store.



Buy 1, get 1 free – plus free shipping!

Why enjoy just one Tucker Bag designer reusable grocery bag! Super strong, 24 designs, hold over 35 pounds, fits in your purse. Simply enter coupon code: **SEATTLE** when checking out at **www.tuckerbags.com**. (limit 2 free bags per order). Tucker Bags is a proud supporter of the Seattle reusable bag campaign and is donating 10,000 bags to local food banks.





30% off total ChicoBag purchase!

ChicoBag is a partner in helping humanity kick the single-use bag habit. Visit **www.chicobag.com** and use promo code **SEATTLE**. Offer available until 10/01/09.





Washington Food Industry

Receive a free reusable bag with purchase of \$25 or more!

The independent, locally owned grocers of the Washington Food Industry (WFI) continue to be environmental leaders in the Seattle community and are committed to reducing disposable shopping bags. WFI has recently donated 8,000 reusable bags to Northwest Harvest and Food Lifeline for use at local food banks. Please join their “Choose Reusable” shopping bag efforts and support the environment.

Offer redeemable June 17-23, 2009 at these participating retailers, while supplies last. Coupon may not be duplicated and there is no cash value.





For every reusable bag customers buy, one reusable bag will be donated to local food banks!

The members of the Northwest Grocery Association have distributed reusable bags for almost 20 years, and are pleased to support citizens’ efforts to keep Seattle green!

During the week of June 22 - 26, Safeway, Albertsons, QFC and Fred Meyer will donate up to 10,000 reusable bags to local Seattle food banks for each reusable bag purchased at participating stores. This effort will replace up to 7.2 million plastic bags with reusable bags.



Nick the Ick this Summer

Avoid pests in your kitchen and in your food and yard waste cart this summer by following these kitchen scrap collection tips that our customers say do the trick to stop the ick!

- Bag it! Use a paper or approved compostable bag to store food scraps. When it’s full, just toss the bag in your food and yard waste cart. Visit **www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste** to find approved compostable bags. If you don’t see it on the list – don’t use it! Plastic bags are NOT ALLOWED in the cart.
- Put a lid on it! Keep the lid tight on your food and yard waste cart, and use a container with a tight-fitting lid to store food scraps in the kitchen. Empty the contents into food and yard waste cart, then rinse and reuse the container.
- Use the news! Spread newspaper at the bottom of your cart or wrap your scraps in newspaper to help keep your cart clean.
- Chill it! Put leftovers in a container or wrap them in paper, then place them in your refrigerator until collection day. This may sound strange, but residents claim this system works great!



Food Waste Collection at Apartments and Condos

Tenants want it. It’s good for the environment. Is your building ready? Food waste collection is working great for hundreds of properties and more are signing up. Free technical assistance, educational materials, and tenant training are available. Contact **(206) 684-7665** or go to **www.seattle.gov/util/services/yard**.

Choose Reusable Partnership

In addition to the reusable bag coupons provided by Seattle Public Utilities’ partners, the following businesses have generously donated reusable bags to our local community agencies that provide to the underserved in our area:

Albertsons	Madison Market	Town & Country
AmazonFresh.com	Magnolia Thriftway	Ballard Market
Bartell Drugs	Metropolitan Market	Town & Country
Cartridge World Seattle	PCC Natural Markets	Greenwood Market
ChicoBag	Promenade Red Apple	Tucker Bags
Fred Meyer	QFC	Unified Grocers
Green Bag Company	Safeway	Uwajimaya
Hilltop Red Apple	Shoreline Central Market	Village Market Thriftway
JCPenney	Supervalu	Wal-Mart
Kress IGA Supermarket	Target	West Seattle Thriftway



Save Water and Time this Summer...



And grow a healthier yard, too! Start by reading *Watering to Establish Healthy Plants* and the *Smart Watering Guide* at **www.savingwater.org**.

Here are some more tips to save this summer:

- Soaker hoses work best on level ground and are easy to install.
- Drip irrigation systems water more evenly and work well on slopes.
- Automatic or manual sprinklers often waste 40-50 percent of the water. While plants need water at the roots, much of the water from sprinklers is evaporated in the air or blocked by leaves.
- If you have an automatic system, learn about “smart” controllers that adjust the schedule for you. We offer rebates to improve your system’s efficiency and a look up tool to find certified irrigation professionals.

Find more information on drip irrigation, soaker houses and rebates at **www.savingwater.org**. Call the Garden Hotline at **(206) 633-0224** to have information mailed to you.

Seattle Water Makes the Grade



The 2008 Drinking Water Quality Report has been released and the findings show that Seattle continues to have some of the best tasting, purest-source water in the nation.

The report, a federal requirement for every water utility in the nation, shows that Seattle’s tap water is also one of the best deals around, costing less than one-third of one cent per gallon. Compare that to your favorite bottled water which costs around 79 cents per pint. Bottled water is not any more pure or safe than Seattle tap water.

There is also a major environmental impact from purchasing bottled water. Nationwide, plastic bottles require 17-million barrels of oil to produce. Most end up in the garbage, not in recycling, and to top it off, it takes three liters of water to produce one liter of plastic bottled water. A good idea is to purchase a reusable water bottle – lightweight stainless steel is the best – and drink Seattle tap water.

Washington Green Schools

Parents, students, teachers: Starting this fall, any K-12 school in the state can join the Washington Green Schools program. Students learn how to reduce their school’s carbon footprint while gaining leadership skills and learning the value of community service. Cooper Elementary, Lawton Elementary, and Holy Rosary of Seattle were among 16 pilot schools to test the program. Washington Green Schools is supported by the City of Seattle, Washington State Department of Ecology and other jurisdictions. Go to **www.wagreenschools.org** to learn how to sign your up school!

